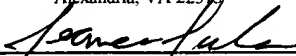




IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/699,036
Confirmation No.: 6768
Filed: October 27, 2000
Inventors: Charles P. Bobbitt
Steven G. Doughty
Title: CONFIGURING
PROCESSING
RELATIONSHIPS
AMONG ENTITIES OF
AN ORGANIZATION

Examiner: Colbert, Ella
Art Unit: 3624
Atty. Dkt. No: 5053-30801

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
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 Commissioner for Patents
 Alexandria, VA 22312

 Jeaneaux Jordan

REQUEST FOR PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REVIEW

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Madam:

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 24, and 51 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,870,725 to Bellinger et al. ("Bellinger") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,442,533 to Hinkle ("Hinkle") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,933,816 to Zeanah et al. ("Zeanah") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

Claims 1, 24, and 51 describe combinations of features including, but not limited to:

preparing a processing relationship definition for each of the selected processing relationship object representations, wherein preparing the processing relationship definitions comprises:

creating a highest level processing relationship object in a processing relationship structure, wherein the highest level processing relationship object represents an FSO; and

creating a plurality of lower level processing relationship objects in the processing relationship structure, wherein the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects in the processing relationship structure are descendents of the highest level processing relationship object; wherein at least one of the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects represents a company of the FSO, a business unit of the FSO, a bank branch office, a regional bank, a credit card issuer, or an acquirer;

The combination of Bellinger, Hinkle, and Zeanah does not appear to teach or suggest at least the above-quoted features of claims 1, 24, and 51, in combination with the other features of the claims.

The Office Action states: "Hinkle teaches, preparing a processing relationship definition for each of the selected processing relationship object representations, wherein preparing the processing relationship comprises: creating a highest level processing relationship object in a processing structure, wherein the highest level processing relationship object represents an FSO (col. 5, lines 35-51 and col. 7, lines 19-40)." The Office Action thus recites the language of Applicant's claim 1 followed by a parenthetical citation to Hinkle. The Office Action does not,

however, provide an explanation of how the cited portion of Hinkle teaches or suggests the above-quoted feature of claims 1, 24, and 51. One portion of Hinkle that was cited states:

FIGS. 2A and 2B is another block diagram of the present invention illustrates: (a) the high level transaction processing modules, and (b) the data tables (represented by the symbols with arcuate vertical sides) provided and maintained by the present invention. Furthermore, the present figure shows the data flows as solid arrows and control flows as dashed arrows. Moreover, this figure also indicates the data tables effected by process models No. 2 and No. 3 of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is another high level block diagram of the present invention during activation of the preprocessor and decomposer 54 wherein the solid arrows are illustrative of the data flows that occur during the activation of the preprocessor and decomposer 54. Moreover, the tables within boxes represent tables having a process model No. 1 representation, and the tables having account balancing control fields include the identifier, "CNTLS."
(Col. 5, lines 35-51)

Hinkle discloses a system including high level processing modules and data tables (col. 5, lines 35-42). Different process models affect different data tables. Hinkle further discloses data flow during activation of a preprocessor and decomposer of the system (col. 5, lines 43-48). In addition, Hinkle discloses, for each of a number of transactions: determining, using input from business enterprise databases, whether all necessary data for performing the transaction is available; retrieving the data needed to perform the transaction; checking to determine that the transaction operation requested is available and that the transaction is legitimate; and retrieving subtransaction data descriptors for decomposing an input transaction (col. 7, lines 19-40). Nothing in the cited portions of Hinkle, or any other place in Hinkle, appear to teach or suggest preparing a processing relationship definition for each selected processing relationship object representations, wherein preparing the processing relationship definitions comprise creating a highest level processing relationship object in a processing relationship structure, wherein the highest level processing relationship object represents an FSO.

The Office Action states: “Zeanah teaches, creating a plurality of lower level processing relationship objects in the processing relationship structure, wherein the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects are descendents of the highest level processing relationship object; wherein at least one of the plurality of lower level processing objects represents a company of the FSO, a business unit of the FSO, a bank branch office, a credit card issuer, or an acquirer (col. 6, lines 29-37)”. The Office Action thus recites the language of Applicant’s claim 1 followed by a parenthetical citation to Zeanah. The Office Action does not, however, provide an explanation of how the cited portion of Zeanah teaches or suggests the above-quoted feature of claims 1, 24, and 51.

The cited portion of Zeanah states:

A transaction services set 90 provides transaction coordination and ESP message formatting and an external service provider interface services set 100 provides message sequencing and ESP interface protocols. A customer services set 110 provides customer identification, relationship, account, acquirer, and issuer services and a business services set 120 provides rule brokering and language, services. A session services set 130 provides session start up and session and delivery vehicle context.
(Col. 6, lines 29-37)

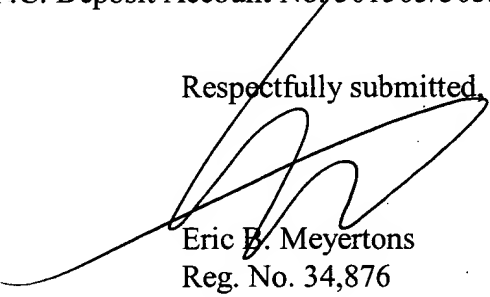
Zeanah discloses a transaction services set, a customer services set, and a business services set. The customer services set provides customer identification, relationship, account, acquirer, and issuer services. Nothing in the cited portions of Zeanah, or any other place in Zeanah, appear to teach or suggest creating a plurality of lower level processing relationship objects in a processing relationship structure, wherein the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects in the processing relationship structure are descendents of a highest level processing relationship object; wherein at least one of the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects represents a company of the FSO, a business unit of the FSO, a bank branch office, a regional bank, a credit card issuer, or an acquirer.

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Inventors: Bobbitt, et al.
Atty. Dckt. No.: 5053-30801

The Office Action points out that limitations from the specification are not to be read into the claims, but that the claims are interpreted in light of the specification. Applicant agrees with the Examiner's comments. Applicant submits, however, that for at least the reasons stated above, the cited art does not teach or suggest at least the above-quoted features recited in claims 1, 24, and 51. Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5053-30801/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



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